

Canada's New Democrats
Responding to HIV and AIDS in Canada

1. Funding the federal strategy on HIV/AIDS

Will your party commit to restoring full funding, at the level of at least \$85 million per year, to the Federal Initiative to Address HIV/AIDS in Canada?

New Democrats have been outspoken opponents of the Harper Conservative cutbacks to AIDS funding set out in the Federal Initiative to Address HIV/AIDS in Canada both in the House and confronting the Minister of Health in Committee. We will work towards restoring full funding to the Federal Initiative to Address HIV/AIDS in Canada. Prevention must be the cornerstone of any effective HIV/AIDS strategy and research into prevention technologies must be adequately supported. A New Democratic government will work with the research and advocacy communities to ensure that federal support for prevention research – including microbicides and vaccines - is pegged at the highest level.

2. Strengthening harm reduction services for vulnerable people

Will your party commit to supporting harm reduction services, including supervised injection facilities, as one important component of an overall federal strategy on drugs and as part of efforts to prevent the spread of HIV and hepatitis C (HCV) associated with unsafe injection drug use?

New Democrats have consistently supported harm reduction strategies – including supervised injection facilities – as a pillar of our approach to health problems arising from intravenous drug use. We have advocated for harm reduction in Parliament and beyond. This is a science-based public health position. We find the Harper Conservatives' actions in this regard embarrassing and harmful.

3. Protecting prisoners' health to protect public health

Will your party implement needle exchange programs in Canadian prisons to stop the spread of deadly viruses and to protect the health of prisoners, prison staff and the public health more generally?

New Democrats view prisoner needle exchanges as a health issue. Our responsibility to protect the health of Canadians does not stop at the prison gate. We therefore join public health experts and advocates in supporting prison needle exchange programs and, as government, will implement such programs in federal institutions.

Responding to HIV and AIDS globally

4. Supporting the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

As part of unfreezing Canada's foreign aid budget and increasing our official development assistance to the UN target of 0.7% of our Gross National Income (GNI), will your party commit Canada to contributing, in each of the next five years, five percent of the resources needed to fund developing countries' efforts as identified by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria through its technical review process?

Yes, New Democrats will ensure that Canada makes a sustained commitment to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria and commit Canadian development assistance to focusing on eliminating mother-to-child HIV transmission by 2015.

5. Fixing Canada's Access to Medicines Regime

Will your party support legislation to fix Canada's Access to Medicines Regime by creating a simple one-licence process, without additional and unnecessary restrictions, in order to improve access to affordable medicines for people in need in developing countries?

New Democrats consistently have fought for urgent action to get life-saving medication flowing under Canada's Access to Medicines Regime (CAMR). We've introduced motions and legislation in past parliaments to improve CAMR and we will continue to do so. An NDP government will of course remove bureaucratic red tape and enable Canadian pharmaceutical companies to export generic versions of life-saving medicine for people suffering from HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria and other diseases in the developing world.